



## Install solar panels on all govt building rooftops: CA

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday instructed the authorities concerned to take initiatives to generate power by installing solar panels on the rooftops of all government buildings in the country.

While addressing a meeting titled "National Rooftop Solar Programme" at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka, the chief adviser directed for prompt implementation of the programme, and instructed for necessary measures to install rooftop solar

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## Supporters of Ishraque call off protests DSCC administrator joins work after 42 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia resumed duties at Nagar Bhaban yesterday afternoon as BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's supporters reopened the office after 42 days.

Officials from the engineering department also returned to work.

Ishraque's supporters also announced an end to their movement.

The protest began on May 14, with demonstrators demanding that Ishraque be sworn in as mayor. From May 15 to June 23, DSCC employees locked the main gate and departmental offices, suspending all civic services during the period.

Limited services resumed on June 23, when the

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## Weakening the executive won't help democracy

Says BNP leader Salauddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed yesterday said weakening the executive branch will not help strengthen the state's democratic framework.

"Right now, there seems to be a tendency within the efforts of the Reform Commission and the National Consensus Commission to regulate the executive branch as much as possible. Yes, the executive branch has acted authoritatively in the past, but that doesn't mean we can abolish it, nor weaken it," he said.

He made these remarks at a discussion held at Jatiya Press Club marking the anniversary of Nagorik Oikya.

"For the same reason, we cannot abolish the

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## HSC, equivalent exams begin 19,759 absent on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations began across the country yesterday with the Bangla First Paper test.

The examinations started at 10:00am at 2,797 centres nationwide. Written exams are scheduled to continue until August 10, with practical exams set for August 11-21.

A total of 12,51,111 students are registered under



different education boards to take the examinations this year. The total number of examinees is 81,882 fewer than last year.

According to the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, 19,759 candidates were absent on the first day of the exams, including 14,513 from the general education boards, 4,196 from the Madrasa board, and 1,050 from the Technical board.

Meanwhile, 43 candidates were expelled for malpractice on the first day, the committee also said.

Amid a rise in Covid-19 and dengue cases, the coordination committee has enforced strict health guidelines at all venues, said Prof Khandoker Ehsanul Kabir, chairman of the Dhaka Education Board and head of the committee.

During a visit to Vashantek Government College in the capital, Education Adviser Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar told reporters that strict vigilance would prevent any question paper leaks this year.

## NCP, SAD members clash in Madaripur

One hurt, case filed  
OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Shariatpur

A clash broke out during a workers' meeting jointly organised by the National Citizen Party (NCP) and Students Against Discrimination (SAD) in Madaripur on Wednesday, leaving one activist critically injured.

A case was filed in this connection yesterday with Madaripur Sadar Model Police Station by Akash Matubbar, senior joint convener of SAD, naming nine individuals, including the prime accused, Md Hasibullah, a joint coordinator of the NCP's district committee.

The station's Officer-in-Charge Adil Hossain confirmed the incident.

"We are investigating the matter," he added.

The incident occurred at Bhuiya Community Centre during a scheduled

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## Waterlogging, potholes plague Ashkona road

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DIPAN NANDY

With her seven-year old daughter, Mariam Begum, 32, was heading to school on a rickshaw along the road adjacent to the water pump at Ashkona in the capital's Uttara.

As they reached the pump, their rickshaw overturned into a waterlogged crater, leaving both of them seriously injured.

Bystanders pulled them out of the knee deep water and took them to a nearby pharmacy for first aid.

Such incidents have become common in the area.

Residents are frequently injured on this stretch. Locals say the road has turned into a "death trap", with accidents occurring daily.

One resident claimed that a schoolgirl was electrocuted after falling into a ditch, although she survived after being taken to a hospital.

Despite repeated complaints, authorities have yet to begin repair work.

The road, used daily by hundreds of commuters, remains full of potholes and submerged in stagnant water, even after light rain.

Residents say it has been in this condition for over seven years.

Although development work was supposed to be completed three years ago, not a single step has been taken. According to locals, just one hour of rain makes the road unusable for more than two weeks.

"No one from the city corporation has even come to inspect the area. Had they visited, they would have seen

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Due to years of neglect, this road adjacent to the water pump in the capital's Ashkona remains full of potholes and gets submerged in stagnant water, even after light rain, causing suffering to residents.

PHOTO: STAR

European Union (EU) Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller has conveyed to the BNP his hope that democratic order will soon be restored in Bangladesh through a free, fair and credible national election.

The EU envoy expressed this hope during a meeting yesterday with BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan.

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## EU envoy hopes for restoration of democracy

Says Khosru

UNB, Dhaka

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